

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2004 NV 107 E	FOR FURTHER ACTION		see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/EP2004/013097	International filing date (day/month/year) 18/11/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 05/12/2003	
Applicant M.B.N. SRL			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 2

as suggested by the applicant.

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B22F3/105

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B22F B23K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 391 251 B1 (KEICHER DAVID M ET AL) 21 May 2002 (2002-05-21)	1-3,6, 9-14, 16-19, 21,24-30
Y	column 5, line 56 - column 6, line 26 column 6, line 66 - column 7, last line column 13, line 13 - column 14, line 3 column 15, line 46 - line 59 column 16, line 32 - line 49 column 18, line 22 - column 19, line 3 column 25, line 52 - line 62 column 28, line 26 - column 29, line 41 figures 3,4,6-11,27-33,42-45 ----- -/-	4,5,22

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 August 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/09/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Ceulemans, J

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/56736 A (OPTOMECH DESIGN COMPANY; KEICHER, DAVID, M; BULLEN, JAMES, L) 9 August 2001 (2001-08-09)	1-3, 6-13, 17-21, 23-30
Y	abstract page 2, line 28 - page 3, line 11 page 3, line 27 - page 4, line 12 page 5, line 7 - page 8, line 20 page 9, line 5 - page 11, line 7 page 12, line 11 - line 14 figure 1 ----- "EOS brings very fine laser build powders to the UK" METAL POWDER REPORT, MPR PUBLISHING SERVICES, SHREWSBURY, GB, vol. 58, no. 9, September 2003 (2003-09), page 13, XP004454476 ISSN: 0026-0657 the whole document ----- DE 200 20 614 U1 (LZH LASERZENTRUM HANNOVER E.V) 8 March 2001 (2001-03-08) cited in the application claims; figures -----	4,5,22 4,5
Y	US 2001/008230 A1 (KEICHER DAVID M ET AL) 19 July 2001 (2001-07-19)	22 1-3,6, 8-13, 17-19, 21,24, 25,30
X	abstract paragraph '0017! paragraph '0036! - paragraph '0045! paragraph '0051! paragraph '0080! - paragraph '0106! figures ----- WO 93/00171 A (GEBRUEDER SULZER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) 7 January 1993 (1993-01-07) page 3, line 15 - page 5, line 20 claims; figures -----	14-16,19
P,X	WO 2004/091834 A (PETAEJAEJAERVI, AILA; JOKELAINEN, KIMMO) 28 October 2004 (2004-10-28) page 4, line 16 - page 6, line 22 page 7, line 21 - page 8, line 21 figures -----	17-19, 24,25, 29,30
		-/-

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
T	<p>SIMCHI A: "THE ROLE OF PARTICLE SIZE ON THE LASER SINTERING OF IRON POWDER" METALLURGICAL AND MATERIALS TRANSACTIONS B: PROCESS METALLURGY & MATERIALS PROCESSING SCIENCE, THE MATERIALS INFORMATION SOCIETY, US, vol. 35B, no. 5, October 2004 (2004-10), pages 937-948, XP001214017 ISSN: 1073-5623 abstract page 938, left-hand column, paragraph 2 page 944, right-hand column, paragraph C - page 946 page 947, paragraph V figures 14-18; table 1</p> <p>-----</p>	1-13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/EP2004/013097

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 6391251	B1	21-05-2002	AU WO US US AU WO US	6101801 A 0185386 A2 2003206820 A1 2005133527 A1 6747100 A 0102160 A1 6656409 B1		20-11-2001 15-11-2001 06-11-2003 23-06-2005 22-01-2001 11-01-2001 02-12-2003
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